ALPHA PRODUCTIONS
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TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
E-MAN
CUTI
STATON
BORDELL
KATO
BONUS:
JOE STATON
MINI-POSTER
INSIDE!

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E-MAN

CUT STATON BORDELL KATO

BONUS: JOE STATON MINI-POSTER INSIDE!

E-MAN™

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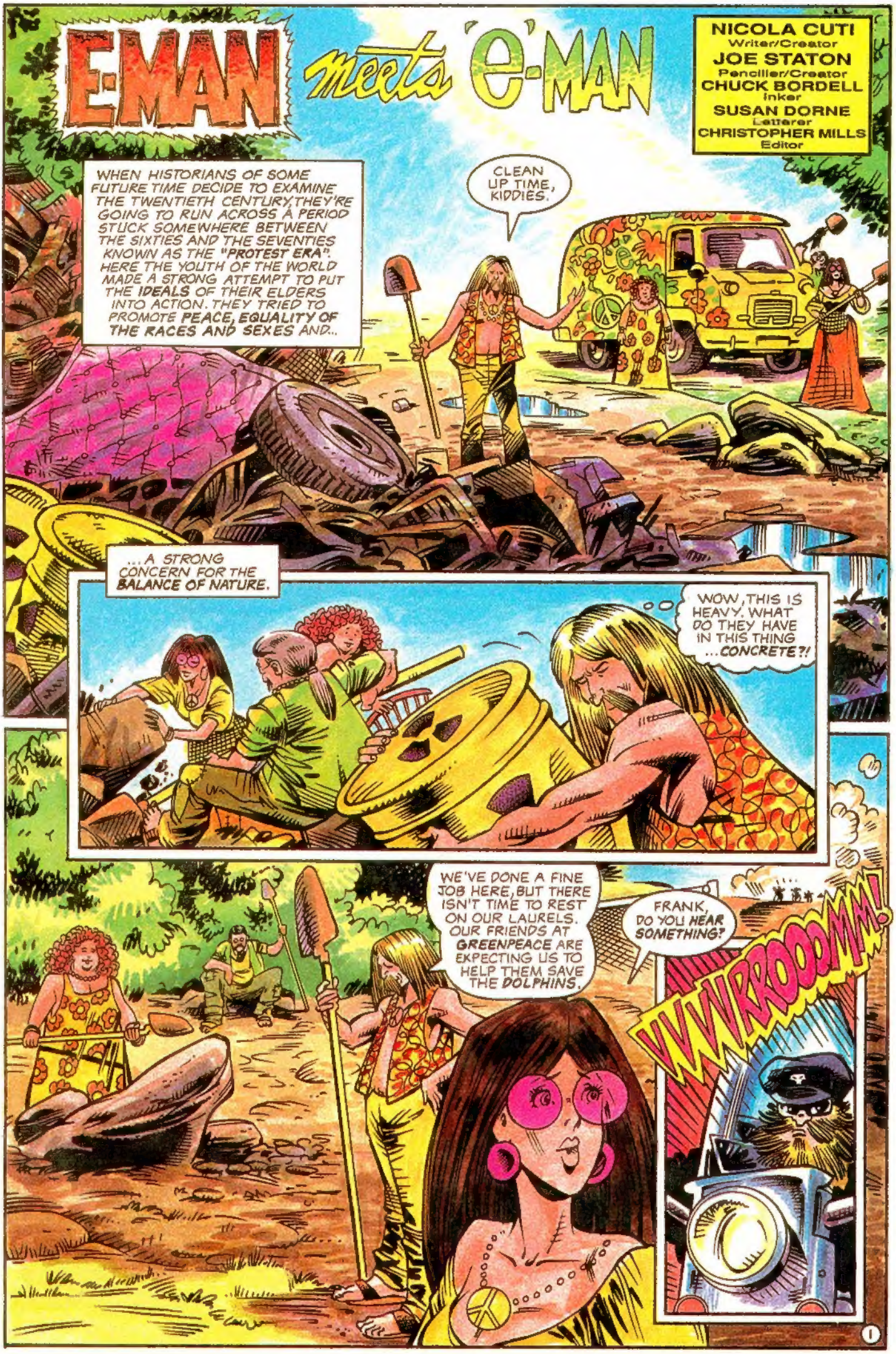
E-MAN meets 'e'-MAN
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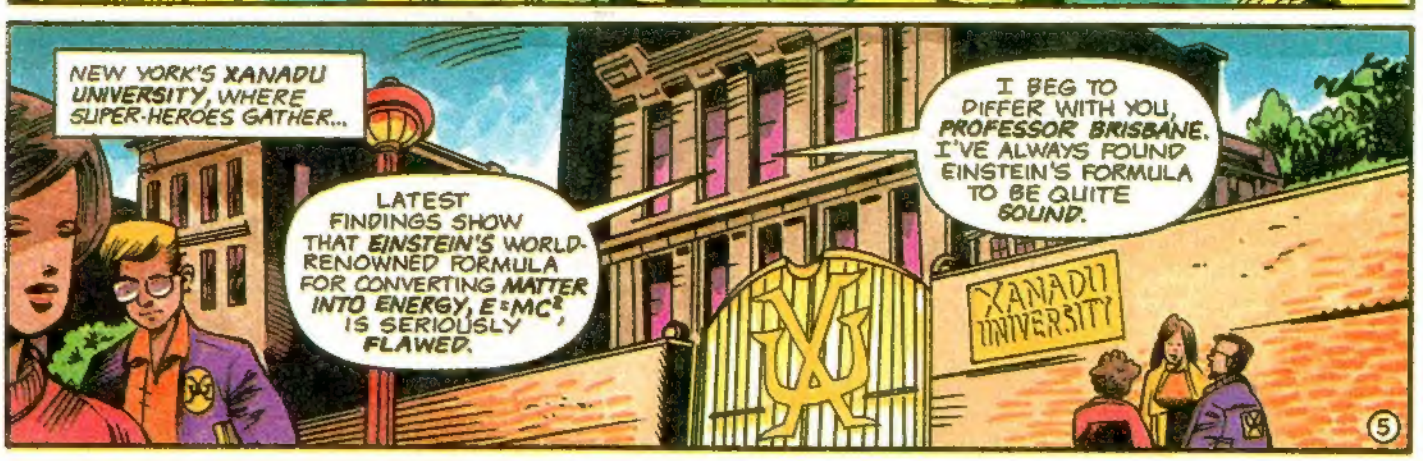
Editor
WHEN HISTORIANS OF SOME FUTURE TIME DECIDE TO EXAMINE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THEY'RE GOING TO RUN ACROSS A PERIOD STUCK SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE SIXTIES AND THE SEVENTIES KNOWN AS THE "PROTEST ERA". HERE THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD MADE A STRONG ATTEMPT TO PUT THE IDEALS OF THEIR ELDERS INTO ACTION. THEY TRIED TO PROMOTE PEACE, EQUALITY OF THE RACES AND SEXES AND...
CLEAN UP TIME, KIDDIES.
...A STRONG CONCERN FOR THE BALANCE OF NATURE.
WOW, THIS IS HEAVY. WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN THIS THING ...CONCRETE?!
WE'VE DONE A FINE JOB HERE, BUT THERE ISN'T TIME TO REST ON OUR LAURELS. OUR FRIENDS AT GREENPEACE ARE EXPECTING US TO HELP THEM SAVE THE DOLPHINS.
FRANK, DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
VVVVROOOMM!
1

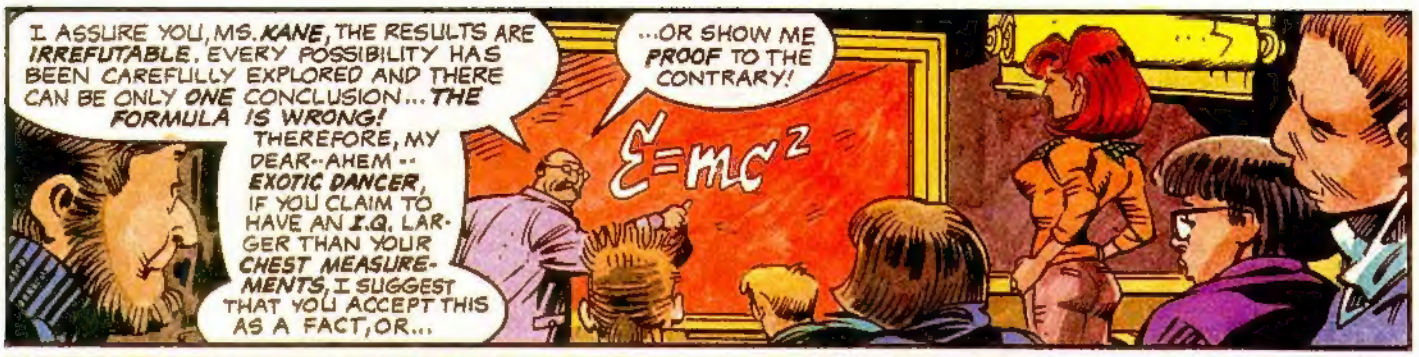
AND AFTER THE DOVES CAME THE HAWKS... THE RAVAGERS. THEY LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH SAVAGE EYES, HATE FOR THE SAKE OF HATING, AND RUIN BECAUSE THAT IS THEIR WAY. THEY ARE THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED... AND DAMNED PROUD OF IT.
HELLO, THERE, UH... CAN WE --
YOU'RE TRESPASSING.
THE LAND BELONGS TO EVERYONE. BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR GUNS. WE'RE READY TO MOVE ON.
I'M DAMN GLAD TO HEAR THAT... BUT, YOU SEE, THERE'S A PENALTY FOR TRESPASSING, PAL. THE MAN WHO OWNS THIS LAND, SAMUEL BOAR, TOLD US THAT ALL TRESPASSERS SHOULD BE...
KA-BLAM! BLAM!
KA-BLAM!
...SHOT!
NOOO!
BLAM!
YOU CRAZY HIP--
2

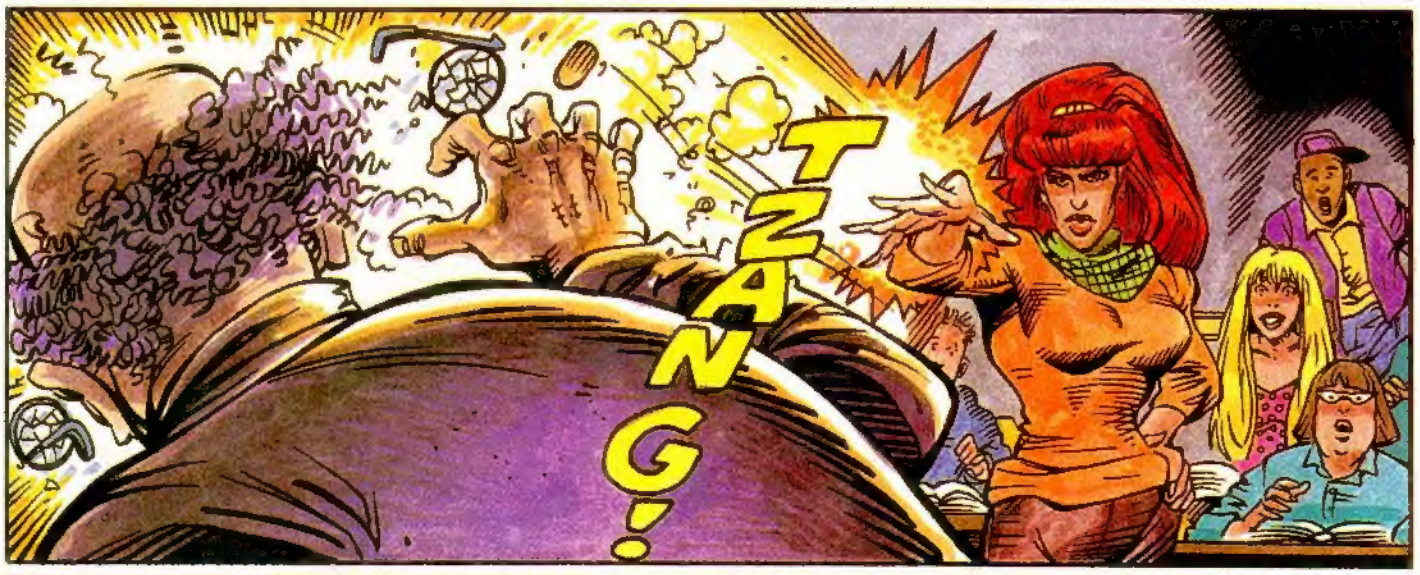
DAMN! THAT HIPPIE FREAK TOOK OUT OLE DAMIAN. BOAR AIN'T GONNA LIKE LOSIN' HIS TOP DOG.
HE'LL GET OVER IT. NOW GET THOSE SHOVELS, AND BURY THESE FREAKS DEEP.
BOAR SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ANY TRACE OF THE DUMP LEFT.
IT WAS CONSIDERATE OF THEM HIPPIES TO COVER UP THIS ILLEGAL DUMP FOR US. NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS COVER UP THE HIPPIES!
JUST KEEP DIGGING, MAN. I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST.
THIS ONE'S DONE. ONE MORE GRAVE TO GO AND WE CAN SPLIT.
NAW! WE'LL DROP THEM BOTH INTO THE SAME GRAVE. I'M TOO TIRED TO DIG ANOTHER HOLE.
3

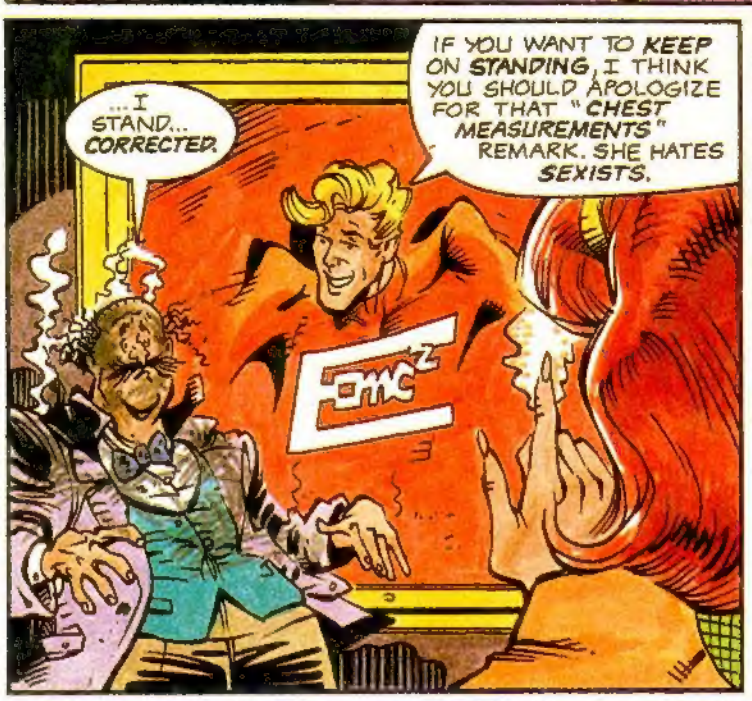
YEARS PASSED. A PRESIDENT WAS ASSASSINATED. A WORLD POWER FELL APART. A WAR WAS LOST. ANOTHER WAR WAS WON. A TREE GREW ABOVE THE SITE OF AN ATROCITY. A TREE MARKED THE GRAVES OF SEVERAL YOUNG WARRIORS AMONG THOSE MISSING IN ACTION IN THE CONFLICT AGAINST ECOLOGICAL TERRORISTS.
A TREE... OFFERED ITS SHADE FOR A FAMILY OF PICNICKERS.
LET'S SET THE CLOTH DOWN UNDER THAT TREE.
YES, IT'S A PERFECT SPOT!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS TRASH?
OH, LET'S JUST LEAVE IT HERE. LET THE WIND BLOW IT AWAY.
POP
COME ON, KIDS, WE'RE GOING HOME NOW. IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
MOM! DAD! LOOK OUT!
VIOLATORS! HOW DARE YOU TRASH MY HOME?!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!!
YIIIIIII!!
KA-BOOM!
TANG!
4

KABOOM!
THE RADIATION IN THE GROUND GAVE ME LIFE, BUT IT WAS THE LIGHTNING WHICH GAVE ME SUPER-LIFE!
NATURE! BEHOLD YOUR CHAMPION!


NEW YORK'S XANADU UNIVERSITY, WHERE SUPER-HEROES GATHER...
LATEST FINDINGS SHOW THAT EINSTEIN'S WORLD-RENOWNED FORMULA FOR CONVERTING MATTER INTO ENERGY, E=MC², IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED.
I BEG TO DIFFER WITH YOU, PROFESSOR BRISBANE. I'VE ALWAYS FOUND EINSTEIN'S FORMULA TO BE QUITE SOUND.
XANADU UNIVERSITY
5

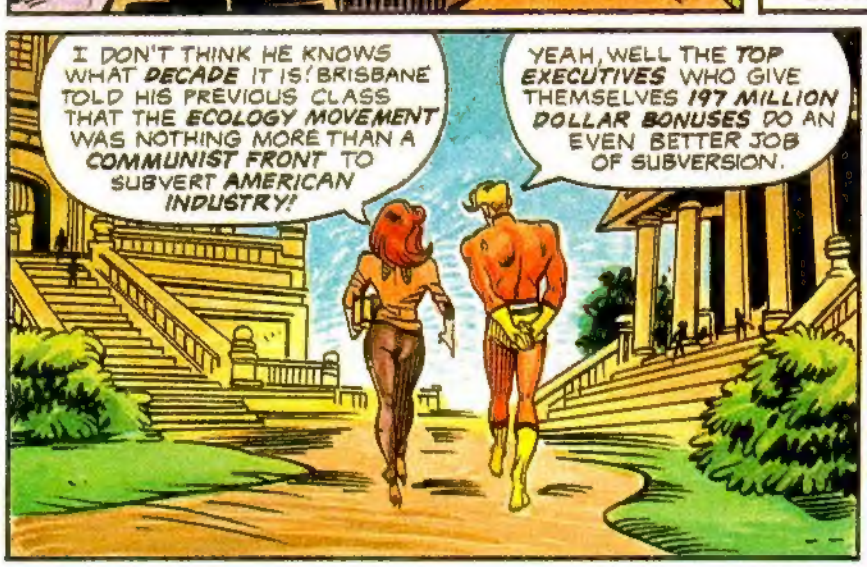

I ASSURE YOU, MS. KANE, THE RESULTS ARE IRREFUTABLE. EVERY POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN CAREFULLY EXPLORED AND THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE CONCLUSION... THE FORMULA IS WRONG! THEREFORE, MY DEAR--AHEM -- EXOTIC DANCER, IF YOU CLAIM TO HAVE AN I.Q. LARGER THAN YOUR CHEST MEASUREMENTS, I SUGGEST THAT YOU ACCEPT THIS AS A FACT, OR...
...OR SHOW ME PROOF TO THE CONTRARY!
$E=mc^2$




...I STAND... CORRECTED.
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP ON STANDING, I THINK YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR THAT "CHEST MEASUREMENTS" REMARK. SHE HATES SEXISTS.
E=mc²

CLASS DISMISSED.
NOVA, YOU AND I POSSESS TREMENDOUS POWER. IF WE CAN'T KEEP CONTROL OF OUR TEMPERS, WE COULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE.
SORRY, ALEC*, BUT WE CAN'T ALL BE AS COOL-HEADED AS YOU. BESIDES, THE OLD REPROBATE DESERVED IT.
E=mc²

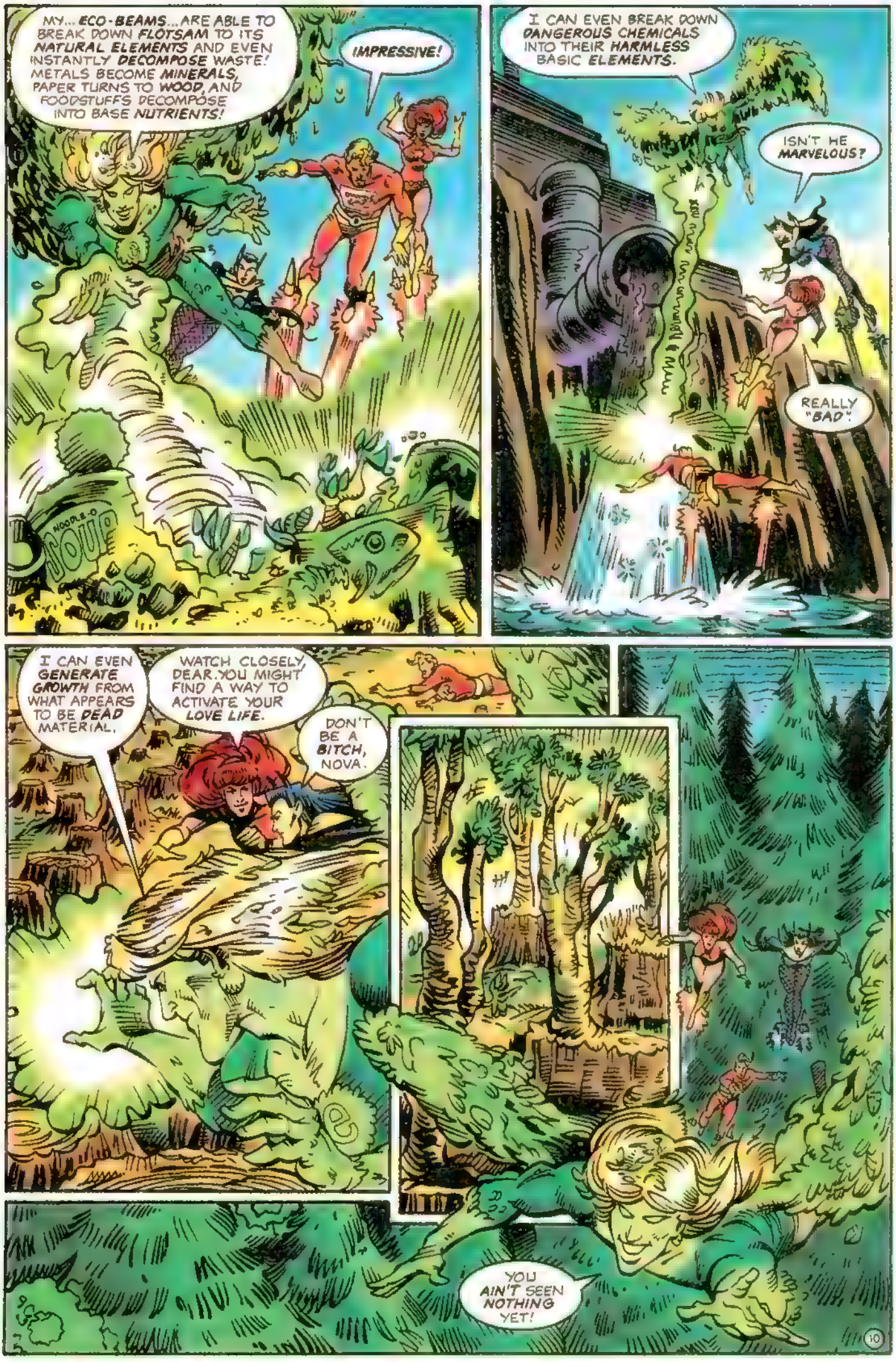
*ALEC TRONN IS E-MAN'S CIVILIAN IDENTITY.--CHRIS.

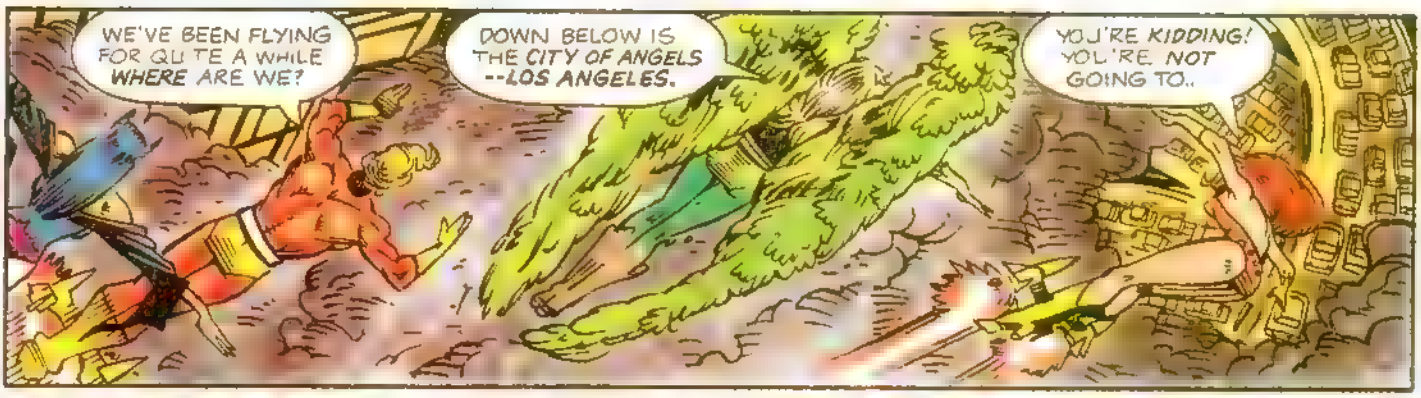

I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS WHAT DECADE IT IS! BRISBANE TOLD HIS PREVIOUS CLASS THAT THE ECOLOGY MOVEMENT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMUNIST FRONT TO SUBVERT AMERICAN INDUSTRY!
YEAH, WELL THE TOP EXECUTIVES WHO GIVE THEMSELVES 197 MILLION DOLLAR BONUSES DO AN EVEN BETTER JOB OF SUBVERSION.

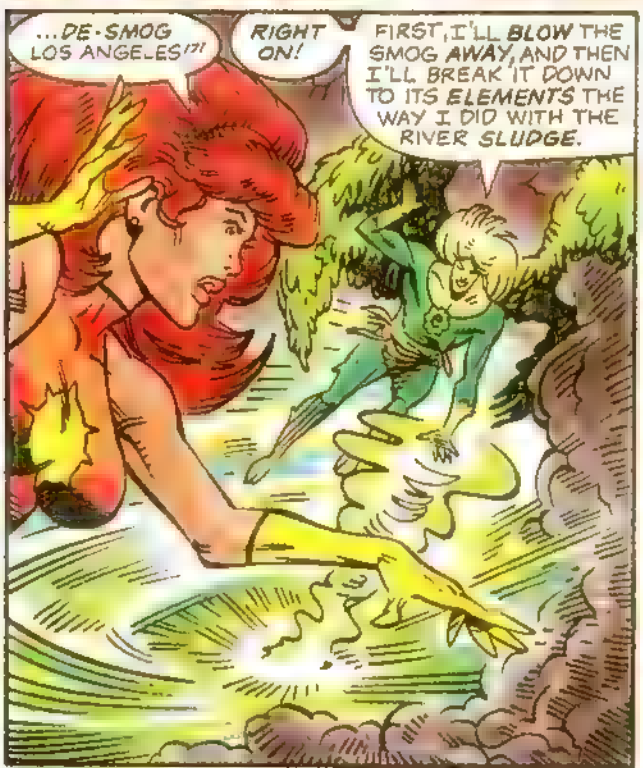
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!
EITHER WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE THE BIGGEST MOLE IN CREATION, OR...
TA-DAAAAAH!
HI THERE! I AM e-MAN!
DO I SEE A TRADEMARK CONFLICT ARISING?
I OVERHEARD YOU MENTION ECOLOGY. THAT'S MY BUSINESS. FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE ECOLOGICAL MESS THE WORLD HAS GOTTEN INTO.
IT'S A HUMONGOUS JOB. I SURE COULD USE SOME HELP.
IF YOU'RE FOR REAL, e-MAN... HOLD IT. THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK. THE WORLD ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO e-MEN. CAN'T WE CALL YOU SOMETHING ELSE?
YOU COULD CALL ME LOWERCASE e-MAN... NAW, TOO LONG. TRY ECO-MAN.
OKAY, ECO-MAN. WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE?
ZAP!
IN TIME, BUT NOT NOW.
I WANT YOU BOTH TO TAKE A TRIP WITH ME. A JOURNEY THROUGH NEGLECT AND SHAME, WHERE THE EARTH IS PUTRID FROM FESTERING SORES, ITS LIFE BLOOD CONTAMINATED WITH RAW SEWAGE, ITS FLESH SHREDDED AND PERFORATED AND PLASTERED, AND ITS ONCE CRYSTAL-CLEAR AIR IS TAINTED BY NOXIOUS YELLOW GASES.
WELL, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE DEFINATELY NOT A TRAVEL AGENT!
7

I'M SET TO GO!
SO MUCH FOR THE MYTH THAT IT TAKES WOMEN HOURS TO DRESS.
AM I INVITED TOO?
SINCE YOU CHANGED THE CONCLUSION TO MY TERM PAPER INTO A TWIG--THE PAPER I'VE BEEN CHASING SINCE IT BLEW OUT OF MY HAND--I THINK YOU OWE IT TO ME TO INVITE ME ALONG.
WHO ARE YOU?
SHE'S MY SISTER. YOU SEE...
NEVER MIND, BRO. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THE NAME IS VAMFIRE, AND AS MY SWEET, OLDER SIBLING WAS ABOUT TO EXPLAIN, WE WERE BORN FROM THE SAME STAR--ARCTURUS--BUT THAT'S WHERE OUR RESEMBLANCE ENDS. YOU SEE,--TALL, GREEN AND HANDSOME--MY BROTHER IS COMPOSED OF POSITIVE ENERGY, WHEREAS I AM NEGATIVE ENERGY. THERE ARE FLAKES OF GOLD IN YOUR EYES, DID YOU KNOW THAT? ANYHOW, WE ARE SORT OF A CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM. WHERE HE GOES, I GO. IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU, DEAR BOY?
AND USUALLY SHE'S SUCH A CLAM...
UH, SURE COME ALONG I CAN USE ALL THE HELP I CAN GET.
BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
WE'RE OFF! STAY CLOSE, I'M NOT SLOWING DOWN FOR STRAGGLERS!
WILL YOU LOOK AT HIM! WE ARE USING ROCKETS AND HE ONLY HAS WINGS, YET HE'S IN THE LEAD!
WHERE YOU GO, SHE GOES? SINCE WHEN?
SINCE "TALL, GREEN AND HANDSOME" POPPED INTO MY LIFE, I GUESS
8

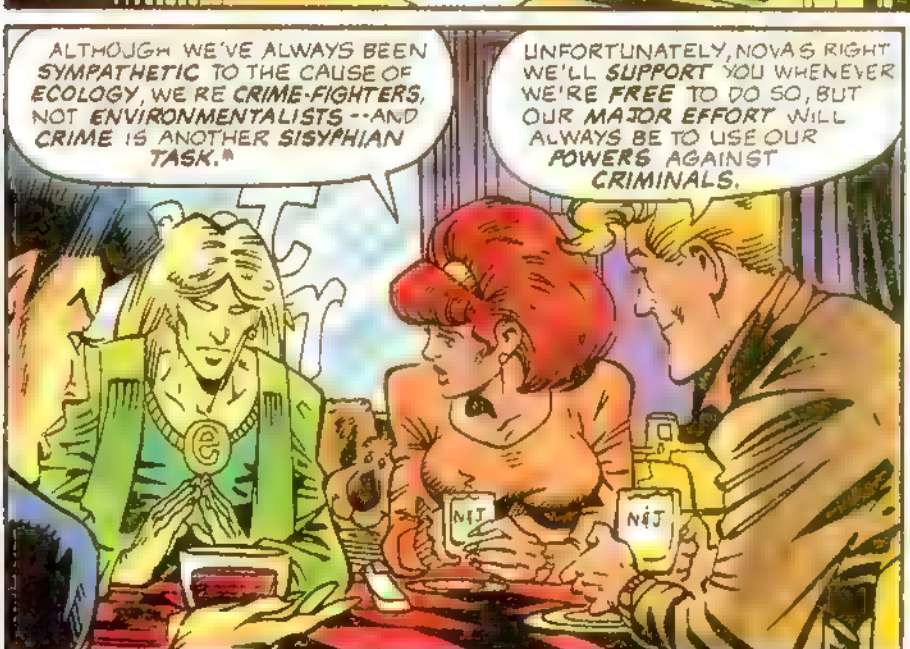
THE FOUR HEROES' FLIGHT TAKES THEM PAST THE GRAVE SITE OF THE MAN WHO WAS FRANK LANDANO, AND WHO IS NOW THE ENIGMATIC ECO-MAN. IN SPITE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, THE GREEN-SKINNED BEING HARDLY EVEN GIVES IT A GLANCE.
THAT WAS A SERIOUS MISTAKE.
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?
AT XANADU. WE MUST BRING HIM BACK. WE CANNOT FAIL. THE HIGH ONE IS DEPENDING ON US.
THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START.
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO
THE STAGE IS YOURS.
9


MY... ECO-BEAMS... ARE ABLE TO BREAK DOWN FLOTSAM TO ITS NATURAL ELEMENTS AND EVEN INSTANTLY DECOMPOSE WASTE! METALS BECOME MINERALS, PAPER TURNS TO WOOD, AND FOODSTUFFS DECOMPOSE INTO BASE NUTRIENTS!
IMPRESSIVE!
NOODLE-O SOUP
I CAN EVEN BREAK DOWN DANGEROUS CHEMICALS INTO THEIR HARMLESS BASIC ELEMENTS.
ISN'T HE MARVELOUS?
REALLY "BAD".
I CAN EVEN GENERATE GROWTH FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE DEAD MATERIAL.
WATCH CLOSELY, DEAR. YOU MIGHT FIND A WAY TO ACTIVATE YOUR LOVE LIFE.
DON'T BE A BITCH, NOVA.
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!
10

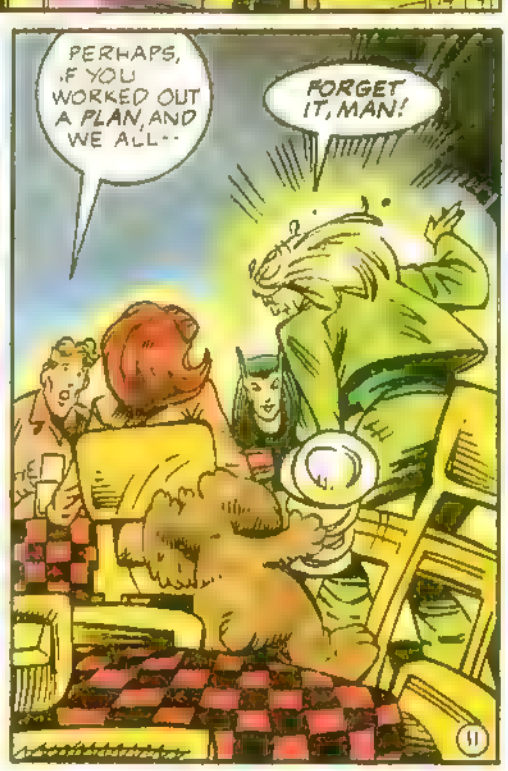

WE'VE BEEN FLYING FOR QUITE A WHILE WHERE ARE WE?
DOWN BELOW IS THE CITY OF ANGELS --LOS ANGELES.
YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO..


...DE-SMOG LOS ANGELES!?!
RIGHT ON!
FIRST, I'LL BLOW THE SMOG AWAY, AND THEN I'LL BREAK IT DOWN TO ITS ELEMENTS THE WAY I DID WITH THE RIVER SLUDGE.

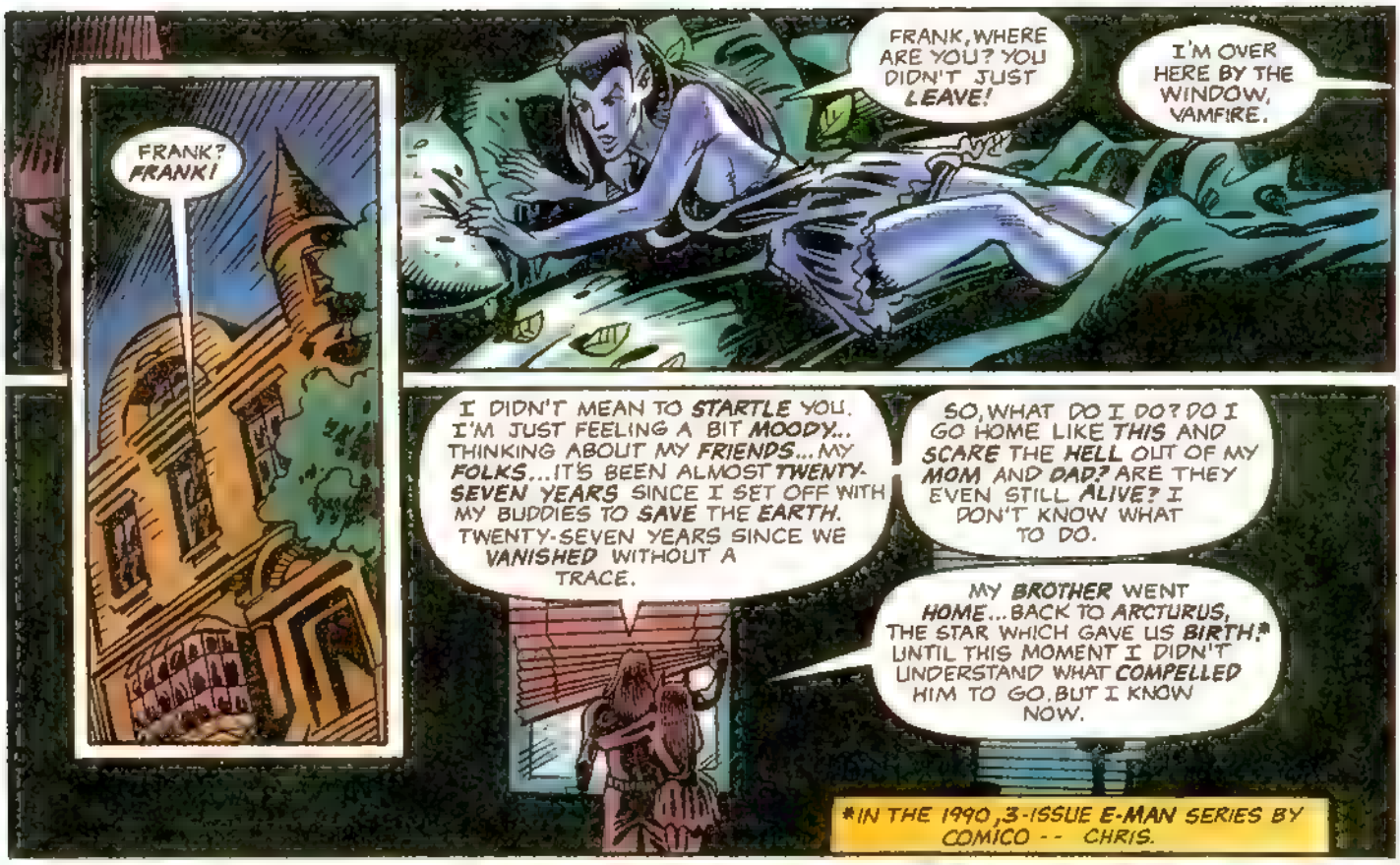
LATER, AT A SMALL COFFEE SHOP NEAR XANADU U.
"FOR NOW" IS THE KEY PHRASE, GANG. I CAN CLEAN UP THE DAMAGE, BUT THE PROBLEM WILL JUST RETURN AS SOON AS I MOVE ON.
BUT WITH ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A SWEEP AND THEN MAINTAIN...
Eat at Joe's Nicks
HOLD ON, FRANK. MAINTAIN IS ALSO A KEY WORD
Madam B Avatsky


ALTHOUGH WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO THE CAUSE OF ECOLOGY, WE RE CRIME-FIGHTERS, NOT ENVIRONMENTALISTS --AND CRIME IS ANOTHER SISYPHIAN TASK.*
UNFORTUNATELY, NOVA'S RIGHT WE'LL SUPPORT YOU WHENEVER WE'RE FREE TO DO SO, BUT OUR MAJOR EFFORT WILL ALWAYS BE TO USE OUR POWERS AGAINST CRIMINALS.
NIT
NIT

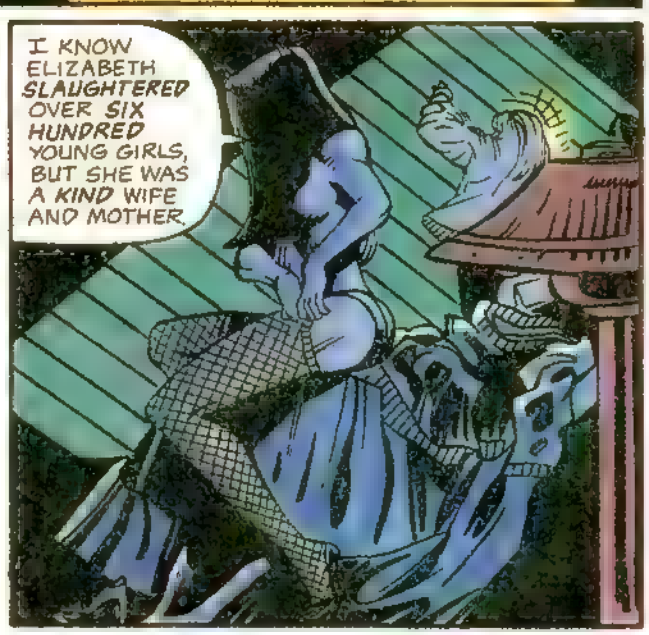
*ACCORDING TO GREEK LEGEND, AS PUNISHMENT FOR ANGERING THE GODS, SISYPHUS, A CORINTHIAN KING, WAS CONDEMNED TO PUSH A HUGE STONE UP A HILL, ONLY TO HAVE IT ROLL BACK DOWN, THUS GIVING THE NAME TO NEVER-ENDING CHORES. -- NICK.

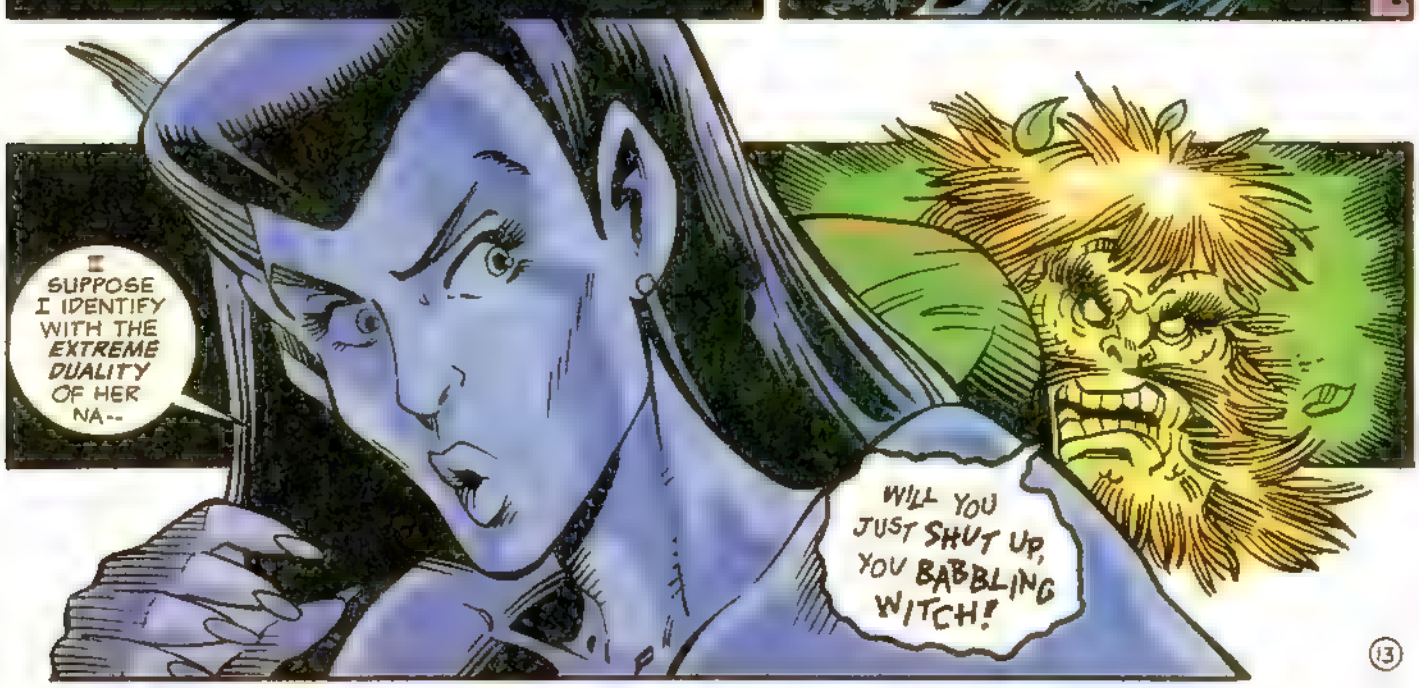


GEE, I'M SORRY HE MISUNDERSTOOD OUR INTENTIONS. I REALLY WANT TO HELP HIM.
FRANK! WAIT!
BLAACHH!
SLAM!
WHAT IS THIS SLIME?!!
JOE'S COFFEE AU NATURAL. INSTEAD OF ROASTING THE COFFEE BEANS, JOE POURS BOILING WATER OVER THE RAW BEANS.
WHY DO I EAT HERE?
NOVA, I'VE NOTICED YOUR HOSTILITY TOWARDS ECO-MAN GOES FAR BEYOND YOUR NORMAL SARCASM...OR AM I IMAGINING YOUR ATTITUDE?
NO, YOU'RE NOT, HONEY. IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT OUR NEW-FOUND FRIEND THAT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL.
?
FRANK! SLOW DOWN! ALEC DOESN'T SPEAK FOR ME! I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN YOU.
AREN'T YOU NEEDED TO.. FIGHT CRIME?
MOST OF THE TIME I JUST GET IN MY BROTHER'S WAY. MY POWERS CANCEL OUT HIS POWERS
I'M SURE, HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN FIGURE OUT A SYSTEM THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO WORK TOGETHER. WANNA TALK ABOUT IT AT MY APARTMENT? IT'S AT THE END OF THIS BLOCK
NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
IZAP!
12

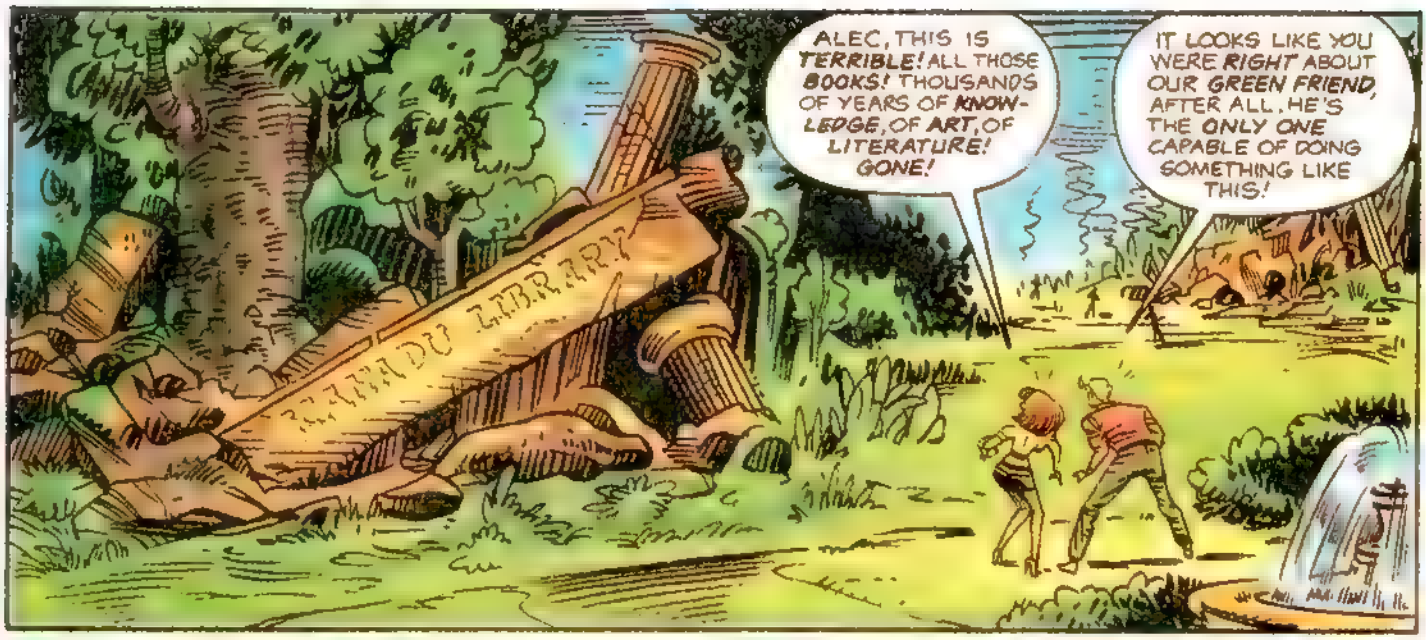

FRANK? FRANK!
FRANK, WHERE ARE YOU? YOU DIDN'T JUST LEAVE!
I'M OVER HERE BY THE WINDOW, VAMFIRE.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU. I'M JUST FEELING A BIT MOODY... THINKING ABOUT MY FRIENDS... MY FOLKS... IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS SINCE I SET OFF WITH MY BUDDIES TO SAVE THE EARTH. TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS SINCE WE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
SO, WHAT DO I DO? DO I GO HOME LIKE THIS AND SCARE THE HELL OUT OF MY MOM AND DAD? ARE THEY EVEN STILL ALIVE? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
MY BROTHER WENT HOME... BACK TO ARCTURUS, THE STAR WHICH GAVE US BIRTH.* UNTIL THIS MOMENT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT COMPELLED HIM TO GO. BUT I KNOW NOW.
*IN THE 1990, 3-ISSUE E-MAN SERIES BY COMICO -- CHRIS.

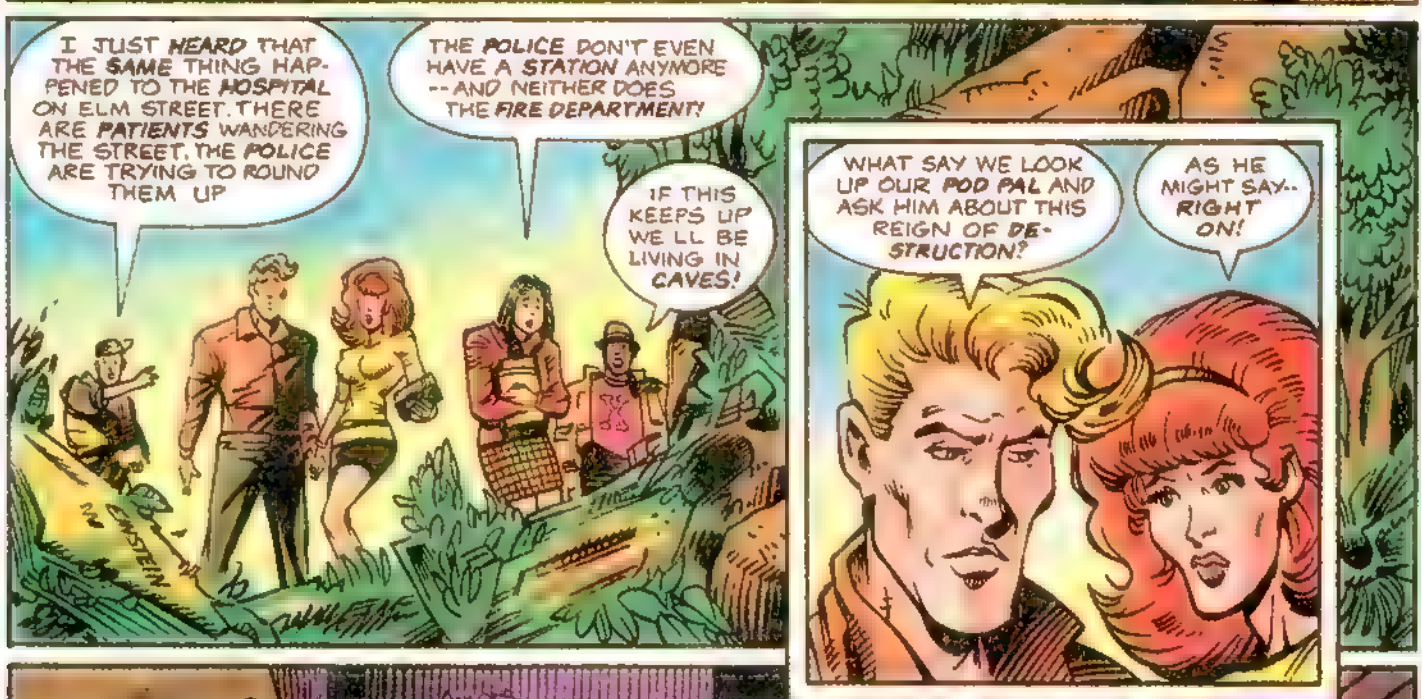
THANKS, VAMFIRE FOR:-
SAY, DON'T YOU HAVE ANOTHER NAME? VAMFIRE SOUNDS LIKE A THING, NOT A PERSON.
WELL, SINCE COMING TO EARTH, I'VE BEEN A BIG ADMIRER OF THE BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE, THE COUNTESS ELIZABETH BATHORY.
SO, CALL ME LIZA.

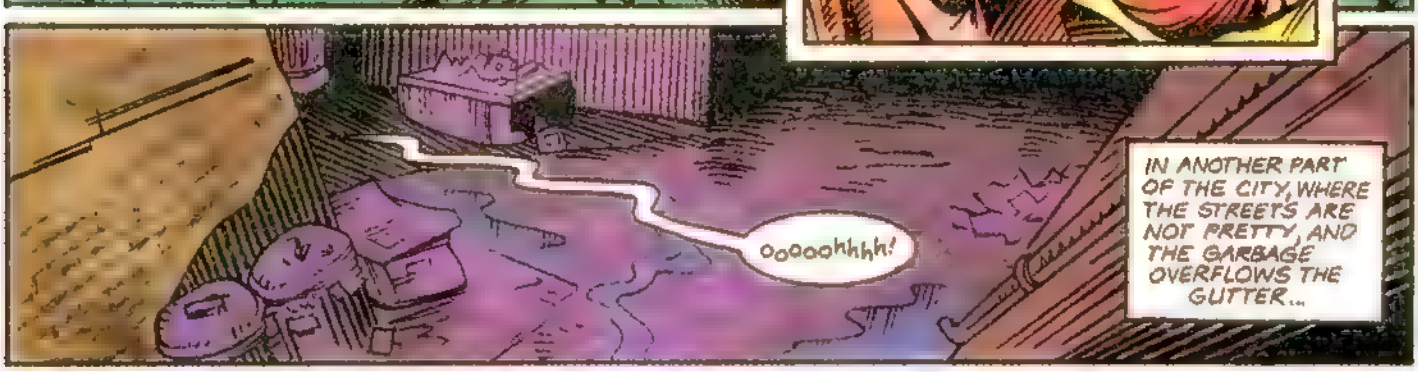

I KNOW ELIZABETH SLAUGHTERED OVER SIX HUNDRED YOUNG GIRLS, BUT SHE WAS A KIND WIFE AND MOTHER.

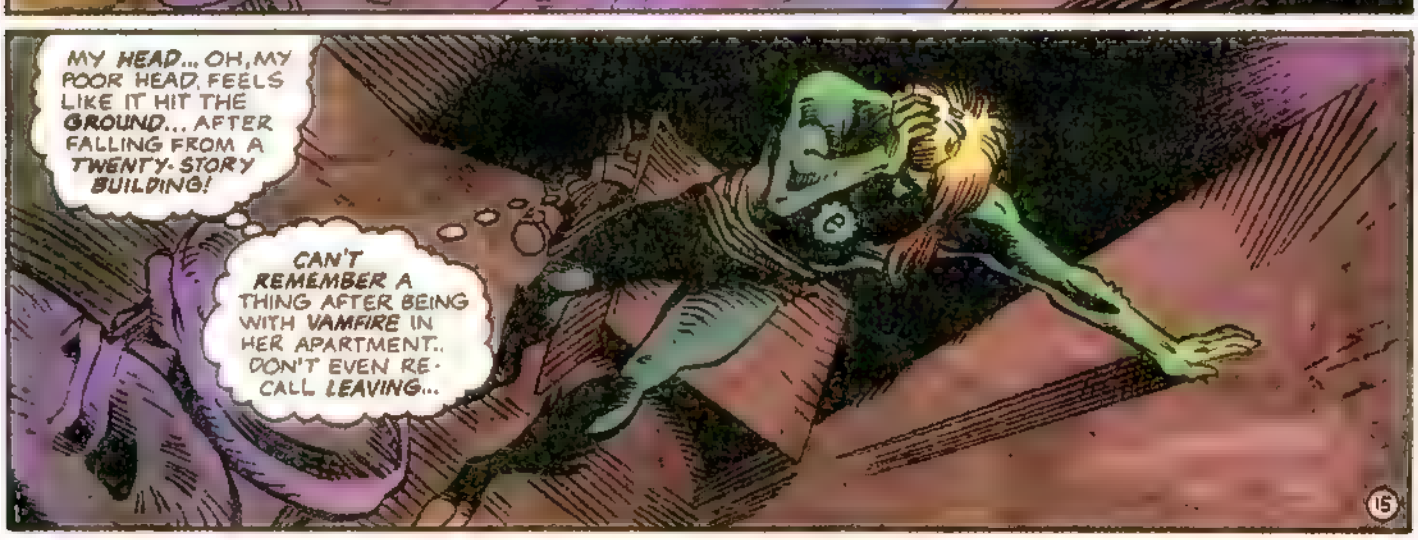

I SUPPOSE I IDENTIFY WITH THE EXTREME DUALITY OF HER NA--
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP, YOU BABBLING WITCH!

CRASH!
GRRRAAR!
YYYIIIIII!
AT XANADU U, THE NEXT DAY..
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE CLASSES, WHY DON'T WE HOP OVER TO JOE & NICK'S AND I'LL BUY YOU A CUP OF COFFEE?
THAT'S SWEET OF YOU, HONEY, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I ADORE THEIR COFFEE, BUT I HAVE TO RETURN THIS LIBRARY BOOK FIRST
I DON'T THINK SO, NOVA
OMIGOD!
A.G. PYM "MY TRAVELS"
14


ALEC, THIS IS TERRIBLE! ALL THOSE BOOKS! THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF KNOWLEDGE, OF ART, OF LITERATURE! GONE!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT OUR GREEN FRIEND, AFTER ALL. HE'S THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

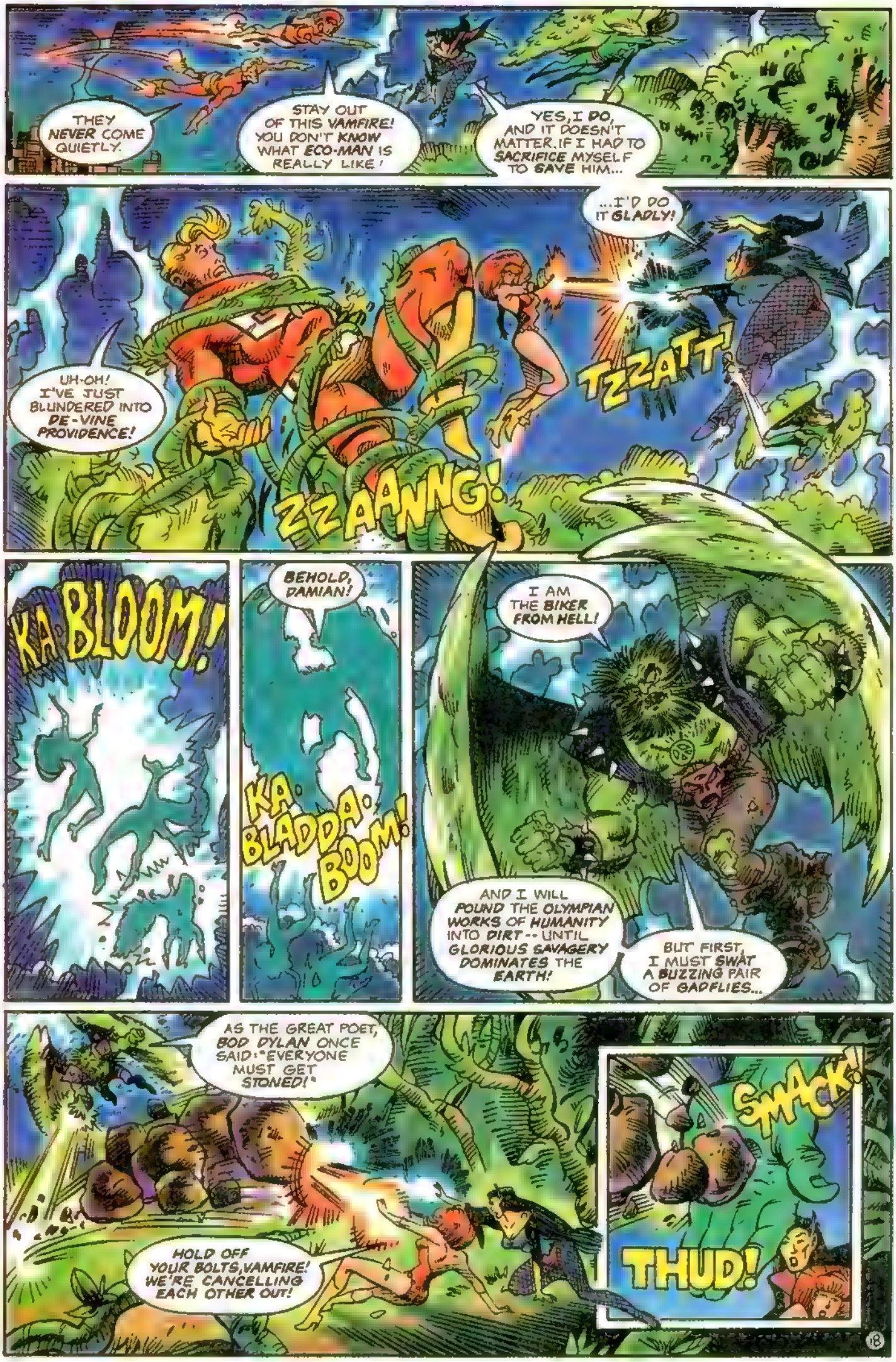

I JUST HEARD THAT THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO THE HOSPITAL ON ELM STREET. THERE ARE PATIENTS WANDERING THE STREET. THE POLICE ARE TRYING TO ROUND THEM UP
THE POLICE DON'T EVEN HAVE A STATION ANYMORE -- AND NEITHER DOES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!
IF THIS KEEPS UP WE'LL BE LIVING IN CAVES!
WHAT SAY WE LOOK UP OUR POD PAL AND ASK HIM ABOUT THIS REIGN OF DESTRUCTION?
AS HE MIGHT SAY.. RIGHT ON!


ooooohhhh!
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, WHERE THE STREETS ARE NOT PRETTY, AND THE GARBAGE OVERFLOWS THE GUTTER...


MY HEAD... OH, MY POOR HEAD. FEELS LIKE IT HIT THE GROUND... AFTER FALLING FROM A TWENTY-STORY BUILDING!
CAN'T REMEMBER A THING AFTER BEING WITH VAMFIRE IN HER APARTMENT.. DON'T EVEN RECALL LEAVING...

WHERE THE HECK AM... HOLD ON! I KNOW THIS PLACE!
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT, FRANK. WE GREW UP HERE.
BRIAN! JULIE! ROXIE! IS THAT YOU? HAVE YOU ALL COME BACK TOO!?
WE HAVE, FRANK. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RADIATION WASN'T AS KIND TO US AS IT WAS TO YOU.
WE'VE COME FOR YOU, FRANK.
GAAAA! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
THEY WANT YOU IN THE OTHER PLACE. THEY CAN FIX YOU. COME WITH US.
THEIR WARM, FETID BREATH FILLS HIS NOSTRILS AND MINGLES WITH THE CORRUPT ODOR OF THEIR DECAYING FLESH... *
IT'S FOR THE BEST. DON'T RESIST.
*SORRY ABOUT THIS LURID CAPTION, FOLKS, BUT NICK USED TO WRITE STORIES FOR THE ORIGINAL CREEPY AND EERIE MAGAZINES. I GUESS IT'S STILL IN HIS BLOOD -- CHRIS.
ZZAATZ!
LEAVE HIM ALONE!

THERE'S HARDLY ENOUGH ENERGY IN ALL THREE OF YOUR BODIES FOR ME TO DRAIN. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN MAKE A GOOD APPETIZER.
ZZITZ
ZZAPZ
ECO-MAN! DON'T FLY OFF! I CAN HELP YOU!
NOT A CHANCE.
...I... CAN... I... MUST...
...I... NEED... YOU!
OUR TIMING STINKS, I KNOW, BUT YOU HAVE SOME RATHER NEFARIOUS DEEDS TO ANSWER FOR, ECO-MAN!
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST.


THEY NEVER COME QUIETLY.
STAY OUT OF THIS VAMFIRE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ECO-MAN IS REALLY LIKE!
YES, I DO, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER. IF I HAD TO SACRIFICE MYSELF TO SAVE HIM...
...I'D DO IT GLADLY!
UH-OH! I'VE JUST BLUNDERED INTO DE-VINE PROVIDENCE!
ZZAANNG!
TZZAT!
KA-BLOOM!
BEHOLD, DAMIAN!
KA-BLADDA-BOOM!
I AM THE BIKER FROM HELL!
AND I WILL POUND THE OLYMPIAN WORKS OF HUMANITY INTO DIRT -- UNTIL GLORIOUS SAVAGERY DOMINATES THE EARTH!
BUT FIRST, I MUST SWAT A BUZZING PAIR OF GADFLIES...
AS THE GREAT POET, BOD DYLAN ONCE SAID: "EVERYONE MUST GET STONED!"
HOLD OFF YOUR BOLTS, VAMFIRE! WE'RE CANCELLING EACH OTHER OUT!
SMACK!
THUD!

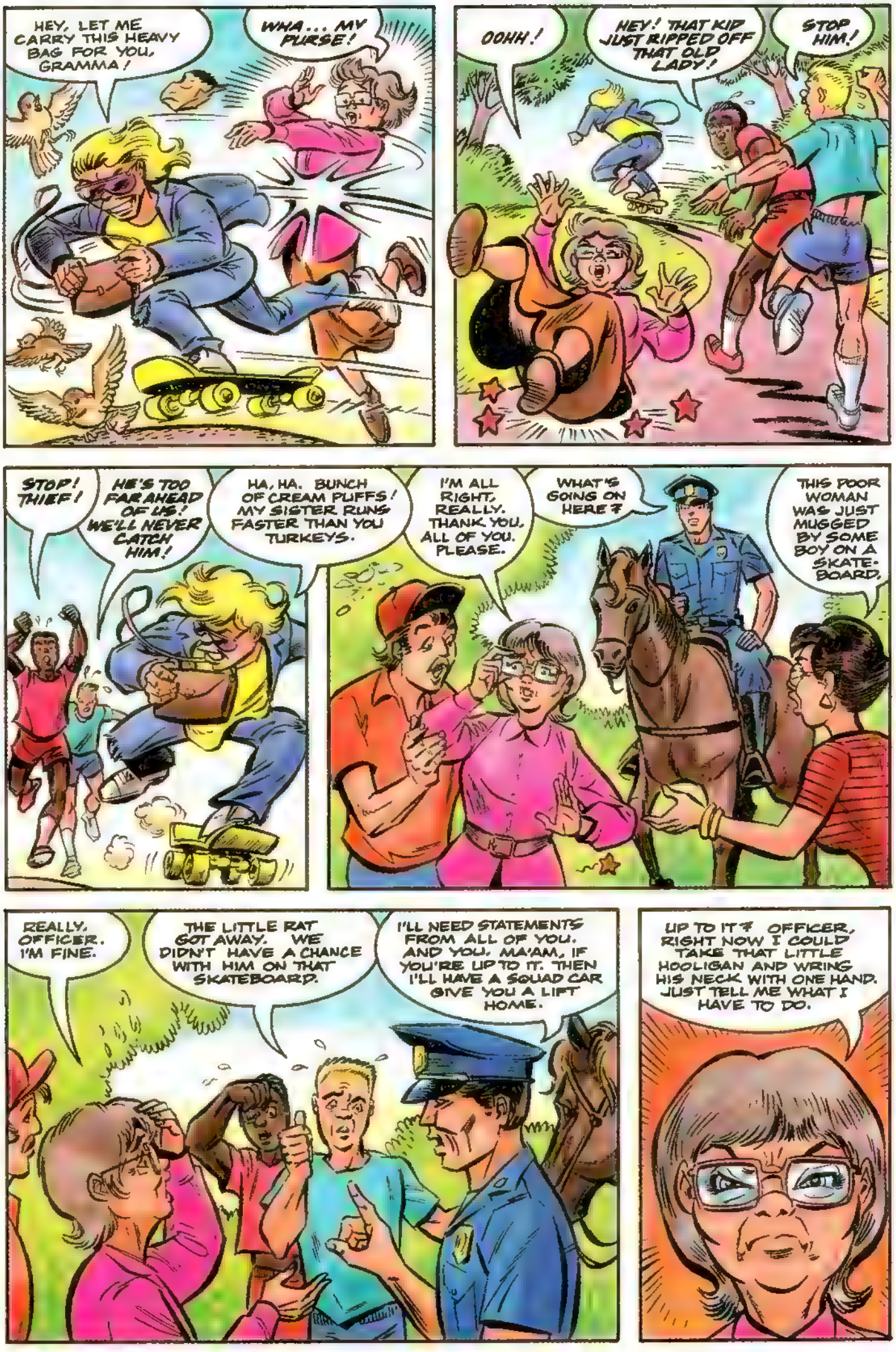
HO! HO! HO!
YOU CHANGED INTO THE JOLLY GREEN GIANT TO SAVE US?
THAT REMINDS ME. I MUST REMEMBER TO PICK UP A CAN OF CREAMED CORN WHEN I GET HOME.
WELL, IF I'D TURNED INTO THAT OTHER GREEN GIANT, A CERTAIN COMIC COMPANY WOULD HAVE SUED ME INTO A BARREL.
YOU LOOK MARVELOUS, DAHLINK!
I LIKE MY VEGETABLES ...COOKED!
EEEYOOW!
FOOOOM
GO TO HIM, NOVA. I'LL DRAIN THE ENERGY FROM THE FIRE.
THANKS!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF US TRYING TO BRING ECO-MAN DOWN. WE'RE TRIPPING OVER ONE ANOTHER. ONE OF US IS GOING TO HAVE TO REMAIN BEHIND WHILE THE OTHER TWO GO AFTER HIM.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD, HONEY, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A ROUGH TIME CONVINCING VAMFIRE TO KEEP AWAY. SHE'S FALLEN FOR ECO-MAN IN A BIG WAY.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, NOVA. VAMFIRE IS THE ONE GOING WITH ME.
ME? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D HELP YOU DEFEAT ECO-MAN.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT ONLY HALF OF THAT BEING UP THERE IS THE MAN YOU CARE ABOUT. TRUST ME ENOUGH TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU, AND MAYBE WE CAN CUT OUT THE CANCER. IT'S A RISK...
19

I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND, AND YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS RISKY, BUT I SAY WE TRY.
AND NOVA, SO YOU WON'T FEEL LEFT OUT, I NEED YOU TO ROUND UP SOME "PEOPLE" FOR THE COUP D'GRAS.
IT'S NICE TO BE INCLUDED.
WE'VE NEVER WORKED WELL TOGETHER, SISTER. I SURE HOPE WE CAN PULL THIS OFF.
WE BETTER! I WON'T BE VERY FORGIVING IF ANY HARM COMES TO FRANK!
YOU'VE RETURNED FOR MORE? A DEADLY MISTAKE. YOU ARE POWERFUL BEINGS, BUT I CONTROL THE FORCES OF NATURE, AND NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST SUCH RAW STRENGTH!
READY?
WITH MINUTE PRECISION, E-MAN AND VAMFIRE CONCENTRATE THEIR ENERGY BOLTS SO THAT NEITHER BOLT TOUCHES THE OTHER.
YYYAAA!
TZAM!
TZZING!
AAARRGH!
20

YES! THOSE TWO DID ME A FAVOR WHEN THEY SPLIT US IN TWO!
I KILLED YOU ONCE. I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
DEATH IS YOUR FATE, YOU PSYCHOTIC ABOMINATION...
WE'VE COME TO PLUCK YOU FROM THE SUPREME ONE'S GARDEN LIKE THE WEED YOU ARE...
OH, GOD, NO!
CALLING TO HIM WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, FOR HE IS THE ONE WHO SENT US.
CRASH!
I GUESS HE'S GONE BACK TO HIS ROOTS.
21

THAT WAS QUITE A NEAT PIECE OF SURGERY.
VAMPIRE AND I MERELY INTENSIFIED YOUR GOOD AND EVIL SELVES. THE SPLITTING WAS INEVITABLE.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, NOW?
I'M OFF TO THE RAIN FORESTS OF BRAZIL WITH MY NEW PARTNER. WHEN WE'RE FINISHED RESTORING THE LAND THERE, WE'LL BE BACK AND WORK ON NORTH AMERICA.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.
NOVA, I TOLD YOU THERE WERE THREE OF THE WALKERS, BUT YOU ONLY BROUGHT ME TWO. WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE -- BRIAN?
BEATS ME, KIDDO
AT NEW YORK STATE PRISON...
COXSACKIE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
NORMALLY, I DON'T PERSONALLY BID FAREWELL TO OUR DEPARTING PRISONERS, BUT FOR THE INFAMOUS SAMUEL BOAR* I MADE THE EFFORT.
HOW VERY KIND OF YOU, WARDEN, I'M FLATTERED.
*SEE CHARLTON'S E-MAN #3 & #8, FIRST'S E-MAN #13-#16 ... OH HECK, JUST TRUST US -- CHRIS.
PLAY IT HONEST, THIS TIME, BOAR THE PEOPLE ARE GETTING FED UP WITH CROOKED, GREEDY, BUSINESS LEADERS.
THE ADMONITION IS UNNECESSARY, WARDEN, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.
I LEARNED HOW TO RUN THINGS FROM THE INSIDE SO IT WILL BE WAITING FOR ME ON THE OUTSIDE. I'LL PLAY IT HONEST, ALL RIGHT, WHEN I'M DEAD!
DRIVER, TAKE ME-- GAAA!
NO NEED TO GIVE ORDERS, MR BOAR I KNOW YOUR DESTINATION, HA! HA! HA! HA!
DEFINATELY THE END...
22

MR. JIGSAW - MAN OF A THOUSAND PARTS
in A DAY in the PARK
©1993 RON FORTIER & GARY KATO
edited by CHRIS MILLS
PORTLAND, MAINE HAS MANY BEAUTIFUL ATTRACTIONS THAT DRAW TOURISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. BUT FOR THE NATIVES, VERY FEW THINGS COMPARE WITH A LEISURELY SUMMER AFTERNOON IN DEERING OAKS PARK.
IT IS A PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO KICK BACK AND RELAX FROM THE GRIND OF DAILY ROUTINES.
RUN FASTER, JOEY! MAKE IT CLIMB!
TEN MORE MINUTES, BOYS! THEN COME AND EAT!
THAT'S ALL, MY FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS. I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW WITH MORE.
WHILE OTHERS CONSIDER THE FUN OF STARTING SUCH A RELATION-SHIP.
MMM... BOBBIE! STOP IT! PEOPLE WILL SEE US!
MMM... AW KATHY, LET THEM. YOU KNOW YOU DRIVE ME WILD!
EEE. GET YOUR HANDS OUT OF THERE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY LOLLIPOP FLAVOR?
OF COURSE EVEN THIS BUCOLIC HAVEN HAS ITS SHARE OF UNSAVORY TYPES.


HEY, LET ME CARRY THIS HEAVY BAG FOR YOU, GRAMMA!
WHA... MY PURSE!
OOHH!
HEY! THAT KID JUST RIPPED OFF THAT OLD LADY!
STOP HIM!
STOP! THIEF!
HE'S TOO FAR AHEAD OF US! WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM!
HA, HA. BUNCH OF CREAM PUFFS! MY SISTER RUNS FASTER THAN YOU TURKEYS.
I'M ALL RIGHT, REALLY. THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU. PLEASE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THIS POOR WOMAN WAS JUST MUGGED BY SOME BOY ON A SKATE-BOARD.
REALLY, OFFICER. I'M FINE.
THE LITTLE RAT GOT AWAY. WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE WITH HIM ON THAT SKATEBOARD.
I'LL NEED STATEMENTS FROM ALL OF YOU. AND YOU, MA'AM, IF YOU'RE UP TO IT. THEN I'LL HAVE A SQUAD CAR GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME.
UP TO IT? OFFICER, RIGHT NOW I COULD TAKE THAT LITTLE HOOLIGAN AND WRING HIS NECK WITH ONE HAND. JUST TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

A FEW HOURS LATER, EMMA CHASE RECOUNTS HER ADVENTURE TO HER FRIEND AND TENANT, CHARLIE GRANT.
. . . AND THE POLICE SAID THESE KINDS OF PARK MUGGINGS HAVE BEEN ESCALATING AT A RAPID RATE FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
THEY SAY IT'S A GANG OF STREET KIDS AND THUS FAR THEY'VE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO LUCK ROUNDING THEM UP.
WELL, FROM WHAT YOU SAID, KIDS ON SKATE-BOARDS WOULD BE KIND OF SLIPPERY.
HI. ANYBODY HOME?
KNOCK KNOCK
HI, CHARLIE, EMMA.
HELLO, BUCK. I TAKE IT YOU HEARD ABOUT MY NASTY LITTLE ENCOUNTER WITH MR. MUGGER ON WHEELS?
AMY "BUCK" BOUCHER, ACE REPORTER FOR THE PORTLAND HERALD.
RIGHT. SGT. THOMPSON AT THE STATION GAVE ME A CALL WHEN HE SAW THE PARK OFFICER'S REPORT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
JUST A LITTLE SHAKEN UP, THAT'S ALL.
WHY, HECK. MY OWN HOROSCOPE CHART SAID I WAS GOING TO TAKE A FEW LUMPS TODAY. I SHOULD LEARN TO TAKE MY OWN ADVICE SOMETIME. HA.
NOW YOU TWO GO ON AND DON'T FRET ABOUT ME.
A LITTLE NAP AND I'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW.
IS IT TRUE ABOUT A GANG OF KIDS TERRORIZING THE PARK?
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR DOWN AT POLICE HQ. EVEN WITH THE MOUNTED PATROLS, THE POLICE ARE SPREAD WAY TOO THIN TO BE REALLY EFFECTIVE.
THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME THEY HAD SOME SPECIAL HELP. JIGSAW STYLE.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. COME ON, LET'S GO UP TO YOUR APARTMENT. I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR A PLAN THAT JUST MIGHT CATCH OUR LITTLE GANG OF VILLAINS NAPPING.
SOUNDS DEVIOUS, BUCK. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN MIND?
YOU'LL SEE. ONE QUESTION THOUGH, CHARLIE.

"CAN YOU WALK IN HIGH HEELS?"
THIS IS TOTALLY STUPID! WHY DID I LET BUCK TALK ME INTO THIS?
NO ONE IS GOING TO FALL FOR THIS.
EXCUSE US,
COMING THROUGH.
WATCH OUT!
WAS THAT WOMAN WEARING A MASK?
IF I WAS THAT HOMELY I'D WEAR A MASK TOO.
THAT TEARS IT! TEN MORE MINUTES THEN THIS THING GOES IN THE NEAREST TRASH BIN!
SUDDENLY
HEYY!!
I'LL TAKE THAT!
WHOAA!
HA, WHAT AN EASY MARK!
AT LAST!!
GOTTA HURRY OR I'LL LOSE HIM. HERE IT IS!
TRASH
I USED TO BE PRETTY GOOD ON ONE OF THESE. LET'S HOPE IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE.

A LITTLE WAYS OFF, IN A SECLUDED AREA OF THE PARK.
TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS. NOT BAD FOR AN AFTERNOON'S HAUL, HEH LEON, MY MAN?
YEAH. AND WE AIN'T DONE COUNTING YET. HERE COMES FRANKY WITH ANOTHER BAG.
GOT ANOTHER ONE. THAT MAKES TWO FOR ME.
HAND IT OVER AND LET'S SEE HOW MUCH IS IN IT.
LOOKS LIKE FRANKY PICKED UP SOMETHING EXTRA DURING HIS TRAVEL.
AAAAGGHHH!!!
SOUNDS LIKE MY CUE!
!!!!!
GET RID OF IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M TRYING TO DO?!
AAARGHHH!!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
SPRONG!

ANYBODY SEEN MY HANDBAG?
LIKE A WHIRLWIND, THE MAN OF A THOUSAND PARTS QUICKLY PUTS THE FRIGHTENED FELONS OUT OF COMMISSION.
GET OFF ME!
NOT MUCH LIKE WRESTLING LITTLE OLD LADIES, IS IT, PUNK?
MR. JIGSAW! YOU CAUGHT THE PURSE SNATCHING GANG!
JUST DOING MY CIVIC DUTY, SIR.
WE ALL HAVE TO DO OUR PART TO KEEP THE PARK SAFE.
LOOK OUT FOR THAT SKATE-BOARD ON THE PATH!
AIIEEE!!
WHIP!
OOPS!
END

STATON / KATO '93

THE ALPHA STATE

Welcome to the Summer of a Million Comics, a.k.a The Glut of '93. Okay, a 'million" may be a slight exaggeration, but it sure seems like a million books out there. "Glut" is perfectly appropriate, though. Look it up and you'll see what I mean.

This edition of **The Alpha State** is appearing in two titles: ***E-MAN*** #1 and ***Tales Of Lethargy*** #1. Now, these two books wouldn't seem to have much in common. ***E-MAN*** is by **Nick Cuti** and **Joe Staton**, long-time, respected comics pros. ***ToL*** is by a bunch of Canadian malcontent animators. ***E-MAN*** is in color, ***ToL*** is printed in black & white. ***E-MAN*** is a serio-comic superhero adventure series, while ***ToL*** is a seriously comical parody of superhero adventures.

Really, they only have three things in common: they're both well-written; they're both well-drawn; and they're both published by **Alpha Productions**.

Alpha Productions is a *comic book* company. Not a *black & white* comic company; not a *youth entertainment media* company; not a *trading card* company; but a comic book publisher. We do not publish *exclusively* in B&W or color - we choose the format based on the project. We do not limit ourselves to one specific genre (say, super heroes or horror) for the sake of easy pigeonholing. We do not indulge in gratuitous "cover enhancements" for the sake of sales, but will use, say, a fifth color (metallic) ink or foil *if it suits and enhances the project.*

Instead, we focus on story, art, and quality design & production - in short, we try to publish *good* comics.

There are a precious few other companies out there like that too, and almost all of them are suffering in this summer of over-hyped, second-rate, pre-fab superhero "universes;" overlong, illogically conceived and haphazardly-edited company-wide crossovers; mind-numbingly banal "parody" books; and mega-merchandised movie tie-in titles and collectibles.

Some of these companies are truly "independent"- self-publishers devoted to a single title, such as **Jeff Smith's Cartoon Books**, which publishes the incredibly good *BONE*; **Coleen Doran's Aria Press**, which publishes the beautifully drawn *A Distant Soil* - some are devoted to a specific genre, like **Cry For Dawn Productions**, which publishes very good, if extremely intense, horror titles for adults; or the Japanese-inspired output of **Ben Dunn's Antarctic Press**; or the best (in my opinion) of the "big independents," **Dark Horse**, which uses revenue from their mainstream, commercial media tie-ins (which, admittedly, they usually do very well) to finance such wonderful books as *Tank Girl*, *Sin City*, *Hard Looks*, and *Grendel*.

Why do I mention these companies in *our* editorial page? Because in my opinion, these guys deserve your attention. In today's market, small companies like Alpha Productions and most of the companies listed above are suffering because many retailers are devoting more and more of their resources toward providing for a small, but voracious and big-spending, speculator audience. Now, I know that retailers are in business to make money, but are they not also in business to serve the needs of all their customers, including those looking to *read* their comics?

By under-ordering on quality independent titles (color or B&W shouldn't even enter into it), they are not serving the real *comic book* fans, the ones who love the *medium* more than the improbable investment possibilities of the flash & glitter "collector" titles. Comic book shops were originally intended to provide a wider *variety* of material to fans than were available on the newstands. But now, with Malibu, Image, NOW, and possibly even Valiant joining Marvel and DC on the newstands, what alternatives do most comic shops provide?

More on this next month in ***E-MAN*** #2 and ***Tales of Lethargy*** #2. Hope you'll be there.

- Chris

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